
By: **Senators Hollinger, Middleton, Astle, Britt, Brochin, Conway, Currie, DeGrange, Della, Dyson, Exum, Forehand, Frosh, Garagiola, Giannetti, Gladden, Green, Grosfeld, Hafer, Hogan, Hughes, Jimeno, Jones, Kasemeyer, Kelley, Klausmeier, Kramer, Lawlah, McFadden, Miller, Munson, Pinsky, Ruben, Stone, and Teitelbaum**

Introduced and read first time: February 6, 2004
Assigned to: Budget and Taxation

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **State Employee Retirees - Retention of Prescription Benefits Plan**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring the State Employee and Retiree Health and Welfare
4 Benefits Program to include a prescription drug benefit plan for certain State
5 retirees notwithstanding any changes in federal law permitting a state to
6 discontinue prescription drug benefit plans for state retirees; and generally
7 relating to the State Employee and Retiree Health and Welfare Benefits
8 Program and prescription drug coverage for State retirees.

9 BY adding to
10 Article - State Personnel and Pensions
11 Section 2-509.1
12 Annotated Code of Maryland
13 (1997 Replacement Volume and 2003 Supplement)

14 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
15 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

16 **Article - State Personnel and Pensions**

17 2-509.1.

18 THE STATE SHALL CONTINUE TO INCLUDE A PRESCRIPTION DRUG BENEFIT
19 PLAN IN THE HEALTH INSURANCE BENEFIT OPTIONS ESTABLISHED UNDER THE
20 PROGRAM AND AVAILABLE TO RETIREES UNDER §§ 2-508 AND 2-509 OF THIS
21 SUBTITLE NOTWITHSTANDING THE ENACTMENT OF THE FEDERAL MEDICARE
22 PRESCRIPTION DRUG, IMPROVEMENT, AND MODERNIZATION ACT OF 2003 OR ANY
23 OTHER FEDERAL LAW PERMITTING STATES TO DISCONTINUE PRESCRIPTION DRUG
24 BENEFIT PLANS TO RETIREES OF A STATE.

1 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
2 July 1, 2004.